

Field Survey Form

General Details

Title of Character Area:
Date:
Direction of view:

Film Number(s)
Time:
Location (reference):

Landform/Topography

Dominant	Secondary	Minor

Landcover and Landscape Elements

Dominant	Secondary	Minor

Aesthetics

Scale	
Texture	
Colour	
Complexity	
Remoteness	
Unity	
Form	
Enclosure	

Perception

Security	
Stimulus	
Tranquillity	
Pleasure	

Comments (*Views on recent development, visions for the future and other specialist knowledge or information*)

Examples of words to use for the different categories

Topography/Landform

flat plateau	plain broad valley	dry valley steep	undulating scarp/cliff	rolling lowland narrow valley	deep gorge vertical	rolling hills
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Land cover types and landscape elements

BUILDINGS

Farm buildings
Masts/poles
Pylons
Industry
Settlement
Urban
Military

HERITAGE

Vernacular building
country house
field systems
prehistoric ritual
hill top enclosure
ecclesiastic
monuments of war
coppice

FARMING

walls
fences
hedges
fields
arable
improved pasture
rough grazing
Orchard

LANDCOVER

designed parkland
scrub
marsh
peat bog
moor/heath
rough grassland
water meadow
grassland
species rich grassland

WOODLAND/TREES

deciduous woodland
coniferous plantation
mixed woodland
shelterbelt
hedge trees
orchard
clumps
isolated trees

HYDROLOGY

river
stream
reservoir
dry valley
pond
lake
drainage ditch

COMMUNICATIONS

road
track
footpath
lane
railway
military
pylons
mast

Aesthetics

SCALE	intimate	small	medium	large
TEXTURE	smooth	textured	rough	very rough
COLOUR	monochrome	muted	colourful	garish
COMPLEXITY	uniform	simple	diverse	complex
REMOTENESS	wild	remote	vacant	active
UNITY	unified	interrupted	fragmented	chaotic
FORM	straight	angular	curved	sinuous
ENCLOSURE	expansive	open	enclosed	constrained

Perception

SECURITY	intimate	comfortable	safe	unsettling	threatening
STIMULUS	monotonous	bland	interesting	challenging	inspiring
TRANQUILITY	inaccessible	remote	vacant	peaceful	busy
PLEASURE	unpleasant	pleasant	attractive	beautiful	

Glossary

Arable land

Land which is suitable for ploughing and cultivation to produce crops, as distinguished from permanent pasture and woodland, but may include rotation grass, fallow land and market gardens.

Coppice

A small wood or thicket of underwood and small trees subjected to periodic cutting or 'coppicing' whereby a tree which has been cut close to the ground then sends up a number of shoots, each of which after a few years can again be cut to produce fencing posts.

Field Pattern

The pattern of hedges and walls that define fields in farmed landscapes.

Gorge

A deep, steep-sided, rocky river valley, formed where river erosion cuts down more rapidly than weathering can wear back the sides. A narrow opening between hills.

Hedge

A row of bushes or low trees, planted closely to subdivide land: to form a boundary or along the sides of a road. Hedges have been dominated in all agricultural districts of the British Isles: except where owing to geological conditions stone walls prevailed.

Landcover

Combinations of land use and vegetation that cover the land surface.

Landform

Combinations of slope and elevation that produce the shape and form of the land.

Landscape Character

The distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular type of landscape, and how this is perceived by people. It reflects particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, landuse and human settlement. It creates the particular sense of place of different areas of the landscape.

Landscape value

The relative value or importance attached to a landscape, which expresses national or local consensus, because of its quality, special qualities including perceptual aspects such as scenic beauty, tranquillity, cultural associations or other conservation issues.

Plateau

An area of upland with a more or less uniform level surface. It usually stands prominently above bordering areas.

Perception

The psychology of seeing and possibly attaching value and/or meaning.

Plain

A comparatively flat usually fairly low continuous tract of country: sometimes gently rolling. Sometimes applied specifically to extensive tracts of this character.

Shelter Belt

The siting of trees and shrubs to deflect and filter the prevailing winds: also known as a windbreak.

Scrub

Drought resistant vegetation composed mainly of dense masses of great variety of evergreen shrubs, about 1.5m high, with thick leathery leaves mostly of a glaucous green colour, intermingled with numerous bulbous and tuberous plants, but deficient in grasses. Where grass does grow it appears in isolated tufts.

Scarp

An abrupt cliff-like face or slope terminating an elevated surface of low relief. In particular the steep contrary slope to the dip-slope of a gently tilted bed of resistant rock. The whole landscape feature is also known as a scarped ridge.

Vernacular

A term to describe local regional traditional building forms and types, constructed using locally available materials, following traditional building practice and patterns.

Bibliography

Goult, G. (2000) *A Dictionary of Landscape; A dictionary of terms used in the description of the world's land surface*. Avebury Technical, Aldershot.

The Landscape Institute & Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment. (2002) *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment* (2nd edition) E & FN Spon Press. London.

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